

r may hypothecate the land for his debts, during
 the continuance
 e of his usufruct; but at his death, the
 reversioner (who is also
 a for life only) receives it exonerated from all
 burthen. The
 e period of a generation, or the term of its life, is
 determined by
 •> the laws of mortality, which, varying a little only
 in different
 climates, offer a general average, to be found by
 observation.
 1 I turn, for instance, to Buffon's tables, of twenty-
 three thousand
 nine hundred and ninety-four deaths, and the
 ages at which
 ; they happened, and I find that of the numbers of
 all ages living
 a at one moment, half will be dead in twenty-four
 years and eight
 i months. But (leaving out minors, who> have
 not the power of
 * self-government) of the adults (of twenty-one
 years of age) liv-
 ing at one moment, a, majority of whom act for
 the society, one-
 i half will be dead in eighteen years and eight
 months. At nine-
 teen years then from the date of a contract, the
 majority of the
) contractors are dead, and their contract with
 them. Let this
 general theory be applied to a particular case.
 Suppose the
 f annual births of the State of New York to be
 twenty-three thou-
 ; sand nine hundred and ninety-four, the whole
 number of its
 3 inhabitants, according to Buffon, will be six
 hundred and seven-
 i teen thousand seven hundred and three, of all
 ages. Of these
 > there "would constantly be two hundred and sixty-
 nine thousand
 ; two hundred and eighty-six minors, and three
 hundred and
 ; forty-eight thousand four hundred and
 seventeen adults, of
 : which last, one hundred and seventy-four
 thousand two hun-

t dred and nine will be a majority. Suppose
that majority, on
[the first day of the year 1794, had borrowed a
sum of money
: equal to the fee-simple value of the State, and to
have consumed
; it in eating- and drinking and making merry in
their day; or,
 if you please, in quarreling and fighting with
their unoffending
i neighbors. Within eighteen years and eight
months, one-half
of the adult citizens were dead. Till then, being the
majority,
they might rightfully levy the interest of their debt
annually
on themselves and their fellow-revellers, or fellow-
champions.
. But, at that period, say at this moment, a new
majority have
come into place, in their own right, and not
under the rights, the conditions, or laws of their
predecessors. Are they bound